

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

A Tradition of Service

DATE:

November 13, 2009

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FILE NO.

FO2236379

FROM:

STEPHÉN B. JOHNSON, COMMANDER LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING DIVISION

TO:

KARYN MANNIS, CAPTAIN INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

SUBJECT:

EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE DISPOSITION:

DEPUTY JOHN ROTH #

DEPUTY C.L. THAMES #

PALMDALE STATION

On December 22, 2008, at approximately 0340 hours, Deputies John Roth and C.L. Thames were involved in a use-of-force incident which resulted in Suspect Brown sustaining a contusion to the center of his forehead, a lacerated lip, and a fractured left rib.

Deputies Roth and Thames responded to a vandalism call at East Avenue S-3, Palmdale. Suspect Brown was subsequently arrested for a No-Bail Warrant. As both deputies were walking the suspect to the patrol car, Suspect Brown became assaultive and began flailing his body in an attempt to free himself. Suspect Brown kicked Deputy Roth in the right knee with his right foot. The deputies took the suspect down to the ground, where he landed on his face. They sprayed Suspect Brown with Freeze +P chemical agent, and they applied the rip hobble to his legs. He was subsequently taken into custody without further incident. Los Angeles County Fire Station 131 responded and treated Suspect Brown for chemical irritant exposure.

Suspect Brown was transported to the Antelope Valley Hospital Emergency Room, where he was treated by Dr. Gupta. He was treated for a contusion to the center of his forehead, a lacerated lip, and a fractured left rib. He was given an okay to book and transported to Palmdale Station.

On November 5, 2009, the Executive Force Review Committee convened and conducted a review regarding the facts of this case. The applicable policies that were evaluated by the committee were: MPP §§ 3-01/025.00, Use of Force; 3-01/025.10, Unreasonable Force; and 3-01/050.10, Performance to Standards.

Concerning:

MPP § 3-01/025.00, Use of Force, and MPP § 3-01/025.10, Unreasonable Force, the Committee determined that the force used by Deputy John Roth # was reasonable and necessary and in compliance with Department policy.

MPP § 3-01/025.00, Use of Force, and MPP § 3-01/025.10, Unreasonable Force, the Committee determined that the force used by Deputy C.L. Thames Jr. # was reasonable and necessary and in compliance with Department policy.

MPP § 3-01/050.10, Performance to Standards, the Committee determined that the tactics employed by all personnel in this incident were within Department Policy.

Stephen B. Johnson, Commander

EBS:YLŴ/ylw

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INVESTIGATOR'S LOG

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT ON USE OF FORCE FORM

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

TRANSCRIBED INTERVIEWS

EXHIBITS A THROUGH D

- A Crime Report Resisting Executive Officer, 69 PC; Violation of Parole, 3056 P.C., Under File Number 508-23888-2608-145
- B (3) Supplemental Reports under File Number 508-23888-145
- C Suspect Brown's Criminal History / OK to Book Form
- D Photographs

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

- Administrative Rights Forms
- Copy of Palmdale Sheriff's Station EM In-Service for December 22, 2008
- Training Records and Assignment Card for Involved Deputies
- Incident Details Printout

Los Angel s County Sheriff' Department

Supervisor's Report on Use of Force Incident Information Page 1 of 4

	URN: 5 0 8 - 2	3 8 8 8	- 2 6 0 8	- 1 4 5	Date:	12/2/0	. 8	Time:	1700		
	Location:	Ea	st Avenue S-3		City or Station:			Palmda	le		
	Bureau/Station/Facility:	Field	Operations Re	gion 1 / Pal	mdale Station	n Ac	dmin. Inves	tigation:	YES 🗌 NO 🛛		
	Type of Force: Significant : Take Down (minor head injury) ; OC Spray ; Hobble										
	Deputy Injury : YES NO Suspect Injury YES NO NO										
	⊠ Call		Observation		Detail		Foot Pursu	Pursuit			
	IAB Notified: YES 🛛 N	NO Perso	on Notified: L7	Γ. Scott Brid			IA	B Roll Ou	it: YES NO NO		
E 1	Employee #	Last Name	Deth	Involved Em	ployee First Nar	me	lobo		Middle Name		
	Sex:	Race:	Roth Unit of Assignment	ent:		Work A	John ssignment (l	Unit #, Mod	M. Jule, etc.):		
	Male Female	<u> </u>	Pa	Imdale Stat	tion			264A			
	Shift: Day	□ РМ	Regular Shift	OT Shift	Off Duty	Age:	Height: 6'02	2"	Weight: 245		
	Injured Treated	Admitte	d Hospital:				Coroner C	Case #	Directed Force Significant Force		
E 2	Employee #	Last Name			First Nar	me	~ .		Middle Name		
<u></u>	Sex:	Race:	Thames Unit of Assignment			Work A	C.L.	Unit #, Mod	fule, etc.):		
	Male Female	0	Pa	Imdale Stat	tion	Щ,		264			
	Shift: BM Day	⊠ РМ	Regular Shift	OT Shift	Off Duty	Age:	Heigh		Weight: 220		
						-	Coroner C		Directed Force		
	Injured Treated	the second secon	d Hospital:			· . · . · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			Significant Force		
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	Sex: Male Female	Race:	Unit of Assignme	ent:		Work A	ssignment (l	nt (Unit #, Module, etc.):			
	Shift:	П РМ	Regular Shift	OT Shift	OT Shift Off Duty			Height: Weight:			
							Coroner	Case #			
	Injured Treated	Admitted	Hospital:						Significant Force		
			w0445555	On Duty Sur		A STATE OF THE	ka Kraina		volved Employees		
	Emp. # Last N	lame Biehl	First Name Jeffre		ddle Name R.		Sgt. YES	Present NO 🛛			
	Emp. # Last N	lame	First Name		iddle Name	F		Present NO	Witness to Incident YES NO		
	Emp. # Last	Name	Kneer	Watch Ser First Na			M	iddle Name	М.		
			Check	Watch Com	mander						
	Emp. Last	Name	Clay	First Na	me Paul		JVII	ddle Name	Α.		
	Lieutenant F Watch Commander (P			Watch Co	mmander's Sid	inature	:	Emp	#: Date		
	Sergeant Jack	H. Ramirez			Watch Commander's Signature:			Emp #: Date			
	Supervisor Completing			mp #:	Copy Provided	to Emp	loyee by:		Emp #:		
	Captain Bobby Unit Commander (Prin			Unit Commander's Signature:				Emp #: Date			

Suspect information

5 0 8 - 2 3 8 8 8 - 2 6 0 8 - 1 4 5

Page 2 of 4

	Suspect Information									
3_1	Last Name	Brown		First Name	Vic	ctor	Middle Nar	me Sh	nawn	
	AKA Last Name			First Name			Middle Name			
	Sex: Male Female		Street Address:		-	City:	_	State & Zip C	ode:	
		B Home Phone:		Age:	Height:	D.O.B.	Weight:			_
				38	5'10"	11-12-70) 2	235	Armed?	긔
	1/39183	Primary Cha	0	9 PC	Secondary Ch		Criminal History			
	EMT in attendance? XYES									
	Hospital Admission?					_				
	By Doctor: Malkeet C					ncaster 93534	Phone #:	661-94	9-5000	_
	Under Influence: X YES	П ио	Substance:	S	Alcohol Interview			Mental	Illness	200.007
	Date: 12-22-0	8	Time: 0942		ape:	Videotape:	M	Photos of Ir	njuries:	ব
				Suspect Inf	ormation					
S	Last Name			First Name			Middle Nai	me		٦
	AKA Last Name			First Name			Middle Na	me		┨
	Sex: Male Female	Race:	Street Address:			City:		State & Zip C	ode:	
		Home Phone	:	Age:	Height:	D.O.B.	Weight	: T	Armed?	╣
	Booking #:	Primary Cha	arge Code:		Secondary Ch	narge Code:		Criminal History		
	EMT in attendance? YES Hospital Admission?					Coroner Case #:	Phone #: Mental History			
				****		Phone #:				
	By Doctor: Under Influence: YES							Mental IIIn	асе. Г	뤼
	Chiach minderice.			Suspect	Interview					
	Date:		Time:		tape:	Videotape:		Photos of Ir	njuries:	
			Sı	spect Info						
S_	Last Name			First Name			Middle Na	ame		
	AKA Last Name	_		First Name			Middle Na			
	Sex: Male Female	Race:	Street Address:			City:		State & Zip	Code:	
	Work Phone:	Home Phone): :	Age:	Height:	D.O.B.	Weigh	nt:	Armed?	키
	Booking #:		Secondary C	harge Code:	Criminal History					
	EMT in attendance? YES		Unit:		Phone #:					
	Hospital Admission?			Mental History						
	By Doctor:		Address:				Phone #	#:		╝
	Under Influence: YES	☐ NO	Substance:					Mental I	llness	
	Date:		Time:		t Interview otape:	Videotape:		Photos of Ir	niuries. F	T
	Dale.		Tillie.	Audio	rape.	videolape.		1 110108 01 11	ijunes.	

Su(rvisor's Report on Use of F()e EMPLOYEE / NON-EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

508-23888-2608-145

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		ΕΕ	mployee Witnesses							
Emp. # Last Name			First Name				1iddle Name			
Emp. # Last Name			First Name	First Name			Middle Name			
Emp. #	Emp. # Last Name					Middle I	Middle Name			
Emp. #	Last Name		First Name			Middle I	Middle Name			
Emp. #	Last Name		First Name	First Name			Middle Name			
Emp. #	Emp. # Last Name				Middle Name					
		Non	-Employee Witnesses							
Last Name		First Name		Middle	Name		Age 37			
Street Address			City		Zip Code	Work P		Home Ph.		
Last Name		First Name		Middle	Name		Age	D.O.B.		
Street Address			City	•	Zip Code	Work P	h.	Home Ph.		
Last Name		First Name		Middle	Name		Age	D.O.B.		
Street Address			City	City Zip C		Work Pl	n.	Home Ph.		
Last Name		First Name		Middle Name			Age	D.O.B.		
Street Address			City			Work Ph	١.	Home Ph.		
Last Name	Last Name			Middle	Name		Age	D.O.B.		
Street Address			City		Zip Code Work		n. Age	Home Ph.		
Last Name		First Name		Middle	Name	lame		D.O.B.		
Street Address			City	City Zip Code		Work Ph.		Home Ph.		
Last Name		First Name		Middle	ddle Name		Age	D.O.B.		
Street Address			City	Zip Code		Work Ph	1.	Home Ph.		
Last Name First Nam		First Name		Middle I	Middle Name		Age	D.O.B.		
Street Address			City	Zip Code		Work Ph.		Home Ph.		
Last Name Fin		First Name		Middle I	Name		Age	D.O.B.		
Street Address			City		Zip Code	Work Ph		Home Ph.		
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Method

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ffs)
(Legs Only)
(TARP)
Belt
1

Type of Injury							Body Part Injured						
(AB) (BR) (BU) (CP) (CO) (DH)	Abrasion Bruise Burn Complaint of Pain Concussion Death	(FR) (GS) (HB) (LC) (ND)	Dog Bite Fractures Gunshot Human Bite Lacerations Nerve Damage	(PW) (SD) (ST) (UN) (RM)	Paralysis Puncture Wound Soft Tissue Damage Sprain/Twists Unconscious Refused Med Treatment	(AD) (AK) (AR) (BK) (BT) (CH)	Abdomen Ankle Arm Back Buttocks Chest	(FA) (FE) (FI) (GE) (GR) (HD)	Face Feet Fingers Genitals Groin Hands	(HI) (IN) (KN) (LE) (NK) (NO)	Hip Internal Knees Leg Neck Nose		
(DI)	Dislocation	(OD)	Organ Damage	(NN)	NONE	(EL)	Elbow	(HE)	Head	'	Shoulder Wrist		

FORCE USED BY	′	FORCE USED AGA	Method	Type of Injury	Body Part (Code)		
Name	E# or S#	Name	E# or S#	(Code)	(Code)	(Code)	
Brown	S#1	Thames	E#2	RS	NN		
Brown	S#1	Roth	E#1	PK	NN		
Roth / Thames	E#1/E#2	Brown	S#1	TT	AB	FA	
					BR	CH	
					FR	CH	
Roth	E#1	Brown	S#1	OC	NN		
Thames	E#2	Brown	S#1	HB	NN		
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	-						
	 						
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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SIGNIFICANT FORCE INCIDENT SUMMARY

UNIT:

Palmdale Sheriff's Station

DATE:

December 22, 2008, Sunday

TIME:

0340 hours

LOCATION:

E. Avenue S-3,

Palmdale, CA 93551

IAB#:

FO2236379

URN#:

508-23888-2608-145

NATURE OF INCIDENT:

On Sunday, December 22, 2008, at approximately 0340 hours, Deputies John Roth and C.L. Thames are responded to a vandalism call at E. Avenue S-3, Palmdale. Suspect Brown was subsequently arrested for a No-Bail Warrant. As both deputies were walking the suspect to the patrol car, suspect Brown became assaultive and began flailing his body in an attempt to free himself. Suspect Brown kicked Deputy Roth in the right knee with his right foot. The Deputies took the suspect down to the ground, where he landed on his face. They sprayed Suspect Brown with Freeze +P chemical agent, and they applied the Rip Hobble to his legs. He was subsequently taken into custody without further incident. Los Angeles County Fire Station 131 responded and treated Suspect Brown for chemical irritant exposure.

Suspect Brown was transported to Antelope Medical Center where he was treated by E.R. Doctor Gupta. He was treated for a contusion to the center of his forehead, a lacerated lip, and a fractured left rib. He was given an ok to book and transported to Palmdale Sheriff's Station.

INVOLVED PERSONNEL:

ROTH, JOHN- Deputy Sheriff, Employee # Palmdale Station FOR I

Employee Work History:

Date of Employment: Date Assigned to Unit: 03-20-2006

Prior Founded Force Incidents:



THAMES, C.L.- Deputy Sheriff, Employee #

Lancaster Station

FOR I

Employee Work History:

Date of Employment:

02-15-2004

Date Assigned to Unit:

Prior Founded Force Incidents:



INVOLVED SUSPECT:

BROWN, VICTOR

Sex:

Male

Race:

Black

Characteristics: Date of Birth:

5'10" 235 Black / Brown

November 12, 1970

Booking Number: 1739183

Charge:

69 P.C. Assault on a Peace Officer, 3056 P.C., Violation of Parole

Injury:

Fractured left rib, lacerated lip, several abrasions, contusion on

forehead.

Suspect Brown's Consolidated Criminal History consist's of the arrest related to this case,

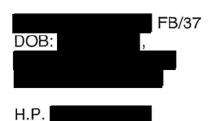


IAB Note: A copy of Suspect Brown's Criminal History is included in this report (Exhibit C).

DEPARTMENT WITNESSES:

Caplinger, Eric- Deputy Sheriff-# Palmdale Station FOR I

NON-DEPARTMENT WITNESSES:



INVOLVED EMPLOYEE STATEMENTS:

Deputy John Roth, # was interviewed on January 15, 2009, at 0524 hours, by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Jack Ramirez and Al Maldonado. The interview was conducted at the Palmdale Sheriff's Station. Deputy Roth agreed to be interviewed without representation, and the interview was digitally recorded for review. The following is a summary of Deputy Roth's interview of the incident.

Deputy Roth said on the indicated date and time he was working Unit 264A EM's. He said he responded to the location regarding a vandalism call in progress. He said he directed his assisting unit, Deputy Thames, unit 264 EM's, to check the vicinity for the disturbing party. He said Deputy Thames arrived and contacted Suspect Brown on Avenue S-3, houses of the incident (E. Avenue S-3). Deputy Roth said he contacted (Suspect's and she told him that she saw Suspect Brown hitting her vehicle (Ca. License #) with an unknown object. She told Deputy Roth that she told the suspect to stop and he responded by yelling at her. She said she called 911. Ms. also told Deputy Roth that the suspect had been drinking brandy during the evening. Deputy Roth said during his investigation, he determined that there was no permanent damage done to the victim's vehicle.

He said he ran Suspect Brown for warrants and it showed that he was wanted for a Nobail 211 P.C. warrant. Deputy Roth said Deputy Thames had detained Suspect Brown in the backseat of his (Thames') radio car. Deputy Roth said Suspect Brown was already handcuffed but he decided to move him to his unit, since he was the handling unit and Suspect Brown was being cooperative. Deputy Roth said he told Suspect Brown that he had a warrant and Suspect Brown acknowledged him.

Deputy Roth said they removed Suspect Brown from the radio car and they proceeded to walk him about 10 or 15 feet towards his (Roth's) parked radio car. He said he was on the right side of Suspect Brown and Deputy Thames was on Brown's left side. He said Suspect Brown suddenly started yelling. Deputy Roth said he told Suspect Brown to stop yelling. He said Suspect Brown suddenly started kicking him in the right knee area and began jerking his body in an attempt to break free. Deputy Roth said he gave Suspect Brown verbal commands to stop kicking him. He said the suspect refused to comply and kicked him a second time. He said when the suspect attempted to kick him a third time, he and Deputy Thames took the suspect to the ground.

Deputy Roth said the suspect landed on his chest and face area. He said they both landed on top of Suspect Brown. He said the Suspect continued to kick and he continued to yell out verbal commands for Suspect Brown to stop kicking, to which he refused to comply. Deputy Roth said he deployed his O.C. Spray (Freeze +P). He said he gave the suspect two 1 to 2 second bursts of spray. He said at that point, he told Deputy Thames to get the hobble and to hobble Suspect Brown's legs. Deputy Roth said once they hobbled the suspect, they placed him in the backseat of his (Roth's) radio car. He said

they requested Sergeant Biehl respond to their location. He said they reported their use of force to him (Biehl).

Deputy Roth said Los Angeles County Fire Department Station 131 responded to their location and treated Suspect Brown. He said Suspect Brown was transported to Antelope Valley Hospital for an ok to book.

I.A.B. NOTE: Refer Exhibit A, for Deputy Roth's Arrest Report. Also see a copy his transcribed interview submitted with this case file.

Deputy C.L. Thames, # was interviewed on January 15, 2009, at 0455 hours, by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Jack Ramirez and Albert Maldonado. The interview was conducted at the Palmdale Sheriff's Station. Deputy Thames agreed to be interviewed without representation and the interview was audio recorded for review. The following is a summary of Deputy Thames' perception of the incident.

Deputy Thames said he responded to East Avenue S-3 regarding a vandalism call. He said upon his arrival, he contacted Suspect Brown who was walking west on Avenue S-3 from the indicated location. He said at that point he handcuffed and detained Suspect Brown pending the arrival of the handling unit, Deputy Roth. He said Suspect Brown was cooperative however he smelled a strong odor of alcohol on his person.

Deputy Thames said Deputy Roth arrived and conducted his investigation. He said Deputy Roth ran Suspect Brown for warrants, and it was discovered that Suspect Brown was wanted for a No-Bail warrant. He said they proceeded to remove Suspect Brown from his radio car and started to walk him towards Deputy Roth's vehicle which was parked a short distance away. He said when they walked him approximately 10 feet Suspect Brown started yelling towards the victim's residence. He said Suspect Brown called Ms.

Deputy Thames said he was walking on the left side Suspect Brown while Deputy Roth was on Brown's right side. He said suddenly he felt a jerking motion and saw Suspect Brown kicking at Deputy Roth. He said Suspect Brown missed Roth with his first kick. He said Suspect Brown was able to kick Deputy Roth in his right knee/shin area on the second kick. Deputy Thames said he attempted to pull Suspect Brown away from Deputy Roth. He said Suspect Brown continued to kick at Deputy Roth and thinks he struck him at least two more times.

Deputy Thames said they gave Suspect Brown verbal commands to stop fighting and to stop resisting, but he continued to fight with them. He said he pulled Suspect Brown and they (Thames and Roth) took him to the ground. He said Suspect Brown landed on his chest and facial area. Deputy Thames said both he and Roth landed on top of Suspect Brown. Thames said they continued to yell out stop fighting and stop resisting while they were on the ground. He said Suspect Brown continued to kick his legs and resisted their efforts to restrain him.

Deputy Thames said he attempted to place the hobble on Suspect Brown's legs, but it was difficult because he continued to kick his legs. He said Deputy Roth deployed his O.C. Spray. He said Suspect Brown continued to fight with them and attempted to raise his body up off the ground. Deputy Thames said he was able to hobble Suspect Brown's feet and that seemed to restrict the movement of his legs. He said they were able to take him into custody without further incident and placed him in Deputy Roth's car. Deputy Thames said he reported his use of force to Sergeant Biehl.

I.A.B. NOTE: Refer to Exhibit B, for Deputy Thames' Supplementary Report. Also see copy of his transcribed interview submitted with this case file.

SUSPECT STATEMENTS:

Suspect Victor Brown was interviewed on December 22, 2008, at approximately 0942 hours by Sergeant Biehl. The interview was conducted at the Palmdale Sheriff's Station and was video recorded.

Suspect Brown told Sergeant Biehl that he refused to cooperate with the deputies and resisted their efforts to arrest him because he knew he was wanted and did not want to go back to prison. He told Sergeant Biehl that he was pepper-sprayed during the incident. Sergeant Biehl took photographs of Suspect Brown's injuries which included abraisons on his right elbow and a bump to his head.

IAB Note: Video recording of Suspect Brown's interview is included in this case file. Also see transcribed interview by Sergeant Biehl submitted with this case file.

DEPARTMENT WITNESSES STATEMENTS:

Deputy Eric Caplinger, # was interviewed on January 15, 2009, at approximately 0626 hours. The interview took place at the Palmdale Sheriff's Station and was audio recorded for review. Deputy Caplinger said on December 22, 2008, he was directed to respond to East Avenue S-3, in order to transport a prisoner to antelope Valley Hospital for an ok to book. He said he was told that Suspect Brown was arrested for a No-Bail warrant and he had resisted and force was used on him.

Deputy Caplinger said while transporting Suspect Brown to the hospital, he proceeded to say that he was wrong and had resisted the deputies. He (Brown) also said he knew the deputies were only trying to do their job. Suspect Brown told Deputy Caplinger that he knew that he had a No-bail Warrant and said the judge had told him he (Brown) would be sent to prison for five years. He told Deputy Caplinger that he resisted and hoped he could escape from the deputies.

Deputy Caplinger said Doctor Gupta treated Suspect Brown for a broken left rib, bruising to his left chest wall, and several minor abraisons. He said Doctor Gupta said the injuries were consistent with being taken to the ground by the deputies.

I.A.B. NOTE: Refer to Exhibit B, for a copy of Deputy Caplinger and Deputy Hallack's Supplementary Report. Also see copy of Deputy Caplinger's transcribed interview submitted with this case file.

SUSPECT INJURIES:

Suspect Brown was transported to Antelope Valley Hospital. He was treated by emergency room physician Doctor Gupta. Dr. Gupta treated Suspect Brown for a fractured left rib, bruising to his chest wall, and several abraisons. He approved the ok to book and Suspect Brown was transported to Palmdale Sheriff's Station.

DEPUTY PERSONNEL INJURIES:

No injuries were sustained by deputy personnel..

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:

No physical evidence was collected at the scene.

WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL:

Personal Weapons (hands, knees), Takedown, O.C. Spray, Hobble restraint.

WEAPONS USED BY SUSPECT:

Personal weapons (hands and feet)

PROPERTY DAMAGE:

None

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR and CHARGES FILED:

Investigator:

William Gordon # Palmdale Detective Bureau

Court:

Palmdale Superior Court

Charges Filed:

69 P.C. filed against Victor Brown

Status:

Sentenced to (4) Years State Prison

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND LIGHTING CONDITIONS:

The weather was clear and cool.